

**Environmental Management (EM)
Nevada Program Activities
Monthly Report to the
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)
January 2021**

In December 2020, the EM Nevada Program continued to operate in Phase 2 of its Operations Remobilization Plan with a continued focus on the deliberate and gradual approach to the execution of Phase 2 protocols. The Remobilization Plan aligns with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) *Return to the Federal Workplace Framework* plan in full coordination with site partners at the National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Field Office (NNSA/NFO). The EM Nevada Program closely monitors the data reported by the State of Nevada, the Southern Nevada Health District, and other public health agencies with employee health and safety remaining the top priority. Limited travel has commenced under Phase 2, primarily for Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) facility evaluations and oversight and is being considered and approved on a case-by-case basis. EM Nevada crews are currently performing field work. The EM Nevada Program continues to meet its commitments to stakeholders through virtual and/or in-person meetings (i.e., NSSAB, Low-Level Waste [LLW] Stakeholders Forum, State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection [NDEP], etc.) In an abundance of caution, EM Nevada Program has opted to transition all Program-hosted public events to a virtual format through at least March 31, 2021.

External Affairs

- Publications:
 - Featured in social media and infographic, [*EM Makes Historic Progress on Cleanup Mission in 2020*](#), in EM Update Newsletter on December 15, 2020 and in DOE EM Weekly Digest Bulletin on December 20, 2020
 - Published social media and article, [*Local Tribes Use Centuries of History, Experience to Help Solve Revegetation Challenges in Nevada*](#), in EM Update Newsletter and NNSS News Brief on December 15, 2020 and in DOE EM Weekly Digest Bulletin on December 20, 2020
 - Published article, *NSSAB Hosts Virtual Orientation (Las Vegas, NV)*, in EM Consolidated Business Center (EMCBC) Newsletter (article available on page 3) – December 22, 2020
 - Featured in social media and article, [*2020 Year in Review Highlights EM Accomplishments, Cleanup Priorities*](#), in EM Update Newsletter and NNSS News – December 22, 2020 and Office of DOE EM Weekly Digest Bulletin on December 27, 2020
- Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) tours:
 - Per NNSA/NFO, all site tours have been cancelled until further notice.
- Planned activities for January 2021:
 - Conduct annual site review with EM HQ, EM Nevada Program, and EMCBC via virtual meeting – January 12, 2021
 - Host NSSAB Full Board Meeting via virtual meeting – January 20, 2021
 - Host EM Nevada Program Intergovernmental Meeting via virtual meeting (NSSAB Chair to attend) – January 20, 2021

Waste Disposal and Transportation

- Update from previous reports – Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12), Oak Ridge, TN generator: The EM Nevada Program continues to coordinate with DOE Headquarters, NDEP, and the NNSA/NFO on items related to the Y-12 waste event from July 2019. In November 2020, RWAP conducted a facility evaluation that resulted in one Finding that the generator will have 30 days to respond after receiving the RWAP final report. There has been no change in status. (please see April – May 2019, July 2019 – April 2020, August – December 2020 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information.)
- Update from previous reports – Oak Ridge, TN generator #2: In August 2020, a tabletop facility evaluation resulted in one Finding. RWAP submitted the final report to the generator in September 2020. Due to COVID-19 impacts, the generator has requested an extension to respond through December 2020. (please see September 2020, December 2020 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)
- Update from previous report – Portsmouth, OH generator: In November 2020, a facility evaluation resulted in one Finding and a sampling assessment resulted in an additional Finding. RWAP's final report is expected to be issued in January 2021. The generator will have 30 days to respond after receiving the RWAP final report. (please see December 2020 NSSAB Monthly Report for more information)
- The facility evaluation scheduled in the month of December 2020 was postponed until January 2021.
- In January 2021, the RWAP will conduct three facility evaluations.
- In January 2021, approximately 55,693 cubic feet of LLW, mixed LLW, and classified waste is forecasted for disposal at the NNS.

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 101/102, Pahute Mesa

In November 2020, NDEP provided comments on the Pahute Mesa Hydrologic Data Document, and comment resolution will be completed in January 2021. The Pahute Mesa Transport Data Document began internal technical review in December 2020.

Industrial Sites

CAU 577, Area 5 Chromium Contaminated Waste Disposal Cells

CAU 577 comprises five Corrective Action Sites (CASs) located at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex. In July 2020, a revised draft Corrective Action Decision Document/Corrective Action Plan (CADD/CAP) was submitted to NDEP and comments were received. Comment resolution and work on the final CADD/CAP continued in December 2020.

Post-Closure Monitoring

Non-Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Post-Closure Monitoring Sites

The Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include CASs where post-closure inspections and maintenance performed in accordance with closure requirements. The annual inspections were completed in December 2020; maintenance and repairs identified during the annual inspections will continue throughout the calendar year.

RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites

The RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include six CAUs where post-closure inspections, monitoring, and maintenance performed in accordance with the RCRA Permit and closure requirements. Maintenance identified during the November 2020 quarterly inspections was conducted in December 2020.

Groundwater Post-Closure Monitoring

The Yucca Flat/Climax Mine (CAU 97) Closure Monitoring Report was submitted to NDEP in December 2020. Preparation of the Post-Closure Monitoring Report for Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain (CAU 99) began in December 2020.



NSSAB Hosts Virtual Orientation (Las Vegas, NV)

Members of the EM Nevada Program's Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) participated in a virtual orientation meeting in October. Nine new volunteer members were welcomed to the NSSAB, bringing the board to 17 members. During the meeting, members received briefings from DOE team members. Rob Boehlecke, Program Manager for EM Nevada, presented on the history of the EM mission, including overviews of all sites across the complex. The board members were also offered presentations by team members about EM Nevada Program public outreach efforts; its Soils, Underground Test Area, and Industrial Sites clean up activities; and its long-term monitoring and waste management scopes. The NSSAB represents Nevada stakeholders by reviewing and making recommendations on environmental restoration and waste management activities at the NNSS.